<u>Public Information Department</u> Memorandum

May 6, 2009

To: Members of the Police-Fire Pension Fund Citizen's Task Force From: Louise Whall, Director of Public Information

Re: Post-election survey results

Following the Feb. 3, 2009 election, the City conducted a short follow-up survey of voters who participated in the election. The in-house survey was mailed to about 600 voters randomly selected from the Greene County Clerk's database of Feb. 3 voters.

We received 279 responses, which provided a statistically valid sampling. The survey returns closely mirrored the outcome of the election; of those who responded, 51 percent had voted "no" and 49 percent had voted "yes" on Feb. 3.

Here is a summary of the respondents' reasoning for their "yes" or "no" votes:

- Of those who voted "no", the top five reasons cited in order were: Mistrust of city leadership; doubt over whether proposed budget cuts were serious; further budget cutting needed first; the 1-cent amount was too high; and local/national economic conditions.
- Those who voted "no" were asked what changes to the proposal would make them reconsider their decision. The top five changes cited were: New Council leadership; more budget cuts; changes to the benefit plan; a lower level of tax over a longer period; and improvement in the local/national economy.
- Of those who voted "yes", the top five reasons cited were: Support for Police and Firefighters; the proposal was necessary to fix the plan; the problem would continue to grow; avoid budget cuts to city services; and maintain the quality of life.

If you have additional questions, please let me know.

Cc: Greg Burris Evelyn Honea Sharon Smith